

JOHN SHELTON AND MARY MORTON SHELTON

John Shelton, son of Stephen Shelton and Abigail Harris Shelton, born December 4, 1839, Nauvoo, Hancock County, Illinois, married Mary Morton March 1868. Died March, 1900, Vernal.

Mary Morton, daughter of John and Margaret Morton, born March 29, 1849, in Lanarkshire, England. Died February 10, 1880, Wanship, Utah. Buried in Midway.

Children:

Mrs. Samuel (Mary Jane) Hair;

Elizabeth, died in childhood;

John Jr., never married;

Mrs. James (Margaret) Kinsey;

Stephen, married Fanny Wardle;

John Shelton came across the plains in 1850 with his parents. The family settled in Provo, and resided there for about five years. After the death of his father in 1855, John Shelton moved with his mother and family of six children to Midway.

Since John was the oldest boy, he felt it was his responsibility to support the family and he worked very hard to do so. He married Mary Morton and they lived for 12 years in Midway.

John was a small man, but very industrious. Before any farm machinery was brought into the valley, farmers were obliged to cradle all of their grain by hand. Contests were held to see who could cradle the most grain in the shortest time and John always won these contests. He loved to dance and would often tap dance at pioneer entertainments. In the spring of 1879, John Mor-

BEAUTIFUL UPON THE MOUNTAINS

ton, Isaak Jacobs and Moroni Gerber took a contract to furnish timber to the Reynolds Saw Mill which was located near Wanship, Utah. John took his family with him to Wanship, and the men hauled big loads of timber to the mill by ox team.

John's wife, Mary, became very ill and died on February 10, 1880. With the help of Abigail Harris Shelton and Margaret Cunningham Morton, the Shelton children were cared for during the next two years.

In 1882, John Shelton sold his property in Midway and went to work in the timber again. He took many large contracts of timber for the Ontario Mine and also provided them with cord wood and charcoal for fuel purposes. He employed many men during this time. All the work was completed with the use of ox teams.

In the fall of 1888 he moved to Vernal, where he lived the rest of his life.

Mary Morton came to America in 1857 with her parents and two brothers, Allen and John. While the family lived in Pennsylvania, Mary was able to attend art school where she learned to do all sorts of needlework. After she came to Midway, she was one of the pioneer dressmakers and did all of the sewing for her family.

When the Morton family were prepared to come west, they traveled to St. Joseph, Missouri, and then went up the Missouri River on a steam boat to Florence where they met an ox team train bringing members of the Church to Utah. After that time, Mary walked most of the way across the plains.

Mary lived with her parents in Provo Valley and during the time of Fort Midway, she was appointed by those in authority to visit the homes of the sick and elderly people to sing to them and cheer them. She was always active in choir work and gave freely of her fine voice in community functions. During the 24th of July celebration in 1867, Mary Morton and Matilda Roby were selected to carry the banner for the parade, which was a great honor at that time.

After her marriage to John Shelton she lived in Midway and bore five children. She later went with her husband to Wanship where she died at the age of 30, leaving a young family. At the time of her funeral it was reported the snows were so deep the cortege could hardly get through to the Midway Cemetery.

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